

Message Text

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EXDIS

C O F R E C T E D C O P Y R E F #

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, VS, VN
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST MOVE TO CHANGE LOCATIONS OF ICCS TEAMS

REF: STATE 175749

1. GVN HAS SHOWN US TEXT OFNOTE FROM CHIEF OF PRG DELEGATION TO TPJMC TO GENERAL THUAN, CHIEF GVN DELEGATE. NOTE REFERS TO ARTICLE 18(C) OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT; STATES THAT THE ICCS HAS ACHIEVED ITS TASKS UNDER SOME PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 18(B) OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT; AND DECLARES THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 18(C) IT IS NECESSARY TO REACH IMMEDIATELY A CONCRETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES ON THE LOCATION OF ICCS TEAMS.

2. AT THE SEPT 7 MEETING OF THE TPJMC THE PRG RAISED SUBJECT AND ARGUED THAT THE ICCS SITES DURING THE FOUR PARTY PHASE OF THE CEASEFIRE DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO PARTY PHASE AND SHOULD BE CHANGED. PRG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A SPECIAL QUESTION TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN THE TPJMC. IT REQUESTED THE GVN TO DESIGNATE THE AUTHORITY WHO WOULD NEGOTIATE THE QUESTION FOR ITS SIDE.

3. THE GVN DELEGATION REPLIED THAT THE ICCS HAS MANY TASKS STILL
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UNDONE AND HAS NOT EVEN DEPLOYED TO ALL THE DESIGNATED POINTS OF ENTRY. IT TOLD THE PRG THAT IT WOULD INFORM THEM AT A LATER DATE IN WHAT FORM AND BY WHOM THE QUESTION THEY RAISED SHOULD BE DISCUSSED.

4. COLONEL NGHIA OF THE TPJMC STAFF TOLD US SEPTEMBER 19 THAT THE GVN HAS CONSULTED ON THE MATTER WITH THE INDOESIANS, WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE PRG PROPOSAL. NGHIA ALSO SAID HE SUSPECTS THE PRG PLANS TO USE CHANGES IN LOCATIONS OF ICCS TEAMS AS BOUNDARY MARKERS FOR THEIR "TERRITORY" IN THE SAME WAY THEY APPARENTLY HOPED TO USE TPJMC TEAM SITES WHILE NEGOTIATING ARTICLE 11(B) OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 13.

5. DURING THIS CONVERSATION NGHIA SUGGESTED THAT THE GVN DELEGATION WAS IN SOME DOUBT HOW TO HANDLE THIS LATEST COMMUNIST INITIATIVE, PARTLY BECAUSE, REMEMBERING THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE NEGOTIATIONS HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE U.S. ATTITUDE WAS.

6. IN ORDER TO LEAVE NO DOUBTS AS TO OUR STAND, WE TOOK THE MATTER UP SEPT 20 WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (KY) REMINDING HIM OF OUR OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF OR OTHERWISE WEAKEN THE ICCS (REFTEL). WE ALSO MADE THE POINTS THAT THE COMMUNIST ARGUMENT BASED ON ARTICLE 18(C) WAS A DISTORTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS AND THAT THIS CLEARLY WAS ANOTHER COMMUNIST EFFORT TO WHITTLE DOWN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ICCS AND REMOVE ICCS TEAM FROM SITES WHERE THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING. WE STRESSED THAT SOME IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH DEPEND ON THE ICCS FOR SUPERVISION, NOTABLY ARTICLE 7, HAVE YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY. KY SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THIS MATTER, AGREED QUICKLY THAT THE GVN SHOULD MAKE ITS OPPOSITION KNOWN TO THE COMMUNISTS AND SAID HE WOULD CALL LTG QUANG RIGHT AWAY.

7. LATER KY TELEPHONED TO SAY THAT QUANG WAS ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TPJMC TO REJECT THE COMMUNIST PROPOSAL TO RENEGOTIATE LOCATION OF ICCS TEAM SITES. WE DOUBT THAT THE MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING (SEPT 21) BUT EXPECT IT WILL BE DEALT WITH AT THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPT 25.
APPLING

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